

# CAPTURE OF LUBLIN DOUBTFUL IN VALUE

## Russian Retreat Accomplished Before Railway Line Was Yielded to Mackensen.

By J. W. T. MASON.

NEW YORK, July 31.—The capture of Lublin by the Austro-German forces has been delayed so long that Marshal von Mackensen an important strategic advantage.

The larger part of the Russian field force has already fallen back to the new Slav battlefront, north and south of Brest-Litovsk, 119 miles east of Warsaw. If Lublin had capitulated before the Russian army got away, von Mackensen might have cut off the retreat to Brest-Litovsk, but this now is impossible.

The Russians have undoubtedly given way at Lublin in co-operation with their general plan of retreat. They are falling back on the Brest-Litovsk railway, and are in an excellent position to fight a stubborn rear guard action. It is improbable that von Mackensen will succeed in enveloping the Lublin army. Like the other retreats of the Slav forces, the Lublin retreat is almost certain of succeeding.

By crossing the railway at Lublin, however, von Mackensen has completed the commencement of the final stage of the evacuation of Warsaw and all the Vistula positions.

Invigorated, the great fortress guarding the southern flank of the Vistula defenses, must either be abandoned almost immediately or its garrison will be surrounded.

The envelopment of Invigorated would give the Austro-Germans possession of the railway which parallels the Vistula to Warsaw, and thus cut Warsaw from Brest-Litovsk. The Grand Duke Nicholas, however, has become so experienced in directing retreats, and Russian strategy is so essentially based on defensive rather than offensive tactics, that the Warsaw rear guard probably will succeed in slipping through before the way is barred.

The Russian plan now clearing out of an area of 25,000 square miles. This doubles the previous territorial holding of the Austro-Germans in Russia. When the Slavs have all retired and have surrendered the intervening territory, the Teutonic forces will occupy a Russian area exceeding in size the size of Alabama, and two and one-half times the size of the German holdings in France and Belgium.

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# Concert Today

By United States Marine Band,  
White House at 5 p. m.

WILLIAM H. SANTELMANN,  
Leader.

March, "Gethsemane".....Strauss

Overture, "Egmont".....Beethoven

"Rustle of Spring".....Blind

Frombosa solo, "Celeste Aida".....Verdi

Musicalian Robert E. Clark

Old Folks at Home, and in Foreign Lands.....Roberts

(An international transcription of the American Folk song in the musical idiom of the following nations, viz: France, Scotland, Spain, Germany, Ireland and Hungary.)

Waltz, "Stories from the Vienna Woods".....Strauss

Grand War march, and Battle Hymn, from "Griegens".....Wagner

"The Star-Spangled Banner."

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